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The City Worker's World in America. By MARY KINGSBURY SIMKHOVITCH. New York: Macmillan, 1917. 8vo, pp. 235. ("American Social Progress Series") \$1.25.

This little volume expresses the rich experience of fifteen years lived in the midst of one of the "city worker's worlds." During that period of time Greenwich House has stood for constant effort toward better understanding of the needs of the wage-earning groups and wider knowledge on the part of the well-to-do in the community. Close relations have been maintained by the author through the activities organized in that social settlement with her neighbors to whose needs swiftly developed activities have ministered. Close relations have also been maintained with the educational institutions—especially Columbia University, the New York School of Philanthropy, and the Training School for Community Workers.

The scope of the discussion is greatly restricted so far as the group under consideration is concerned by the self-imposed limitation to families enjoying an income of "from \$1,500 down to the minimum of subsistence below which the family becomes a public charge."¹ According to the studies, for one of which Greenwich House was itself responsible,² this constitutes a very narrow economic range, as below \$800 under-nourishment and indebtedness are common enough to be accepted as universal, and the author accepts \$1,000 to \$1,200 as the minimum on which an American standard of home life can be maintained. The group, while confined within narrow pecuniary limits, comprises, however, a very large number of families during the period of early married life when the children are too young to contribute to the family income.

The topics briefly and most sympathetically discussed are those included in any adequate view of group life, education, work, leisure, health, poverty, politics, religion. In connection with each of these "interests," to use roughly Professor Small's term, the reader finds a sympathetic discussion, stating generalizations based on long acquaintance with a crowded city neighborhood and familiarity with the literature in the particular field.

The task undertaken in preparing the volume was an extremely difficult one, and the difficulty shows itself more often than is pleasant in confused statement and even in negligent structure of sentence. The reader deploras a certain waste of rich experience and capacity for intimate human contacts that characterize the writer. It is to be hoped that a more intimate view of the life of Greenwich House and of the author may some time find a place beside Miss Jane Addams' description of *Twenty Years at Hull-House* and Miss Lillian Wald's invitation to the world to share the work going on in *The House in Henry Street*. In this volume of the "Social Progress Series," however, is to be found a kindly, intelligent, and interesting introduction to the series of problems confronting the student of industrial and urban conditions, especially as those problems affect the situation of the wage-earning group.

¹ See p. 4.

² More, *Wage-Earners' Budgets*; see also Chapman, *Standards of Living in New York City*.